Pacific Rim 2016
Mini Diversity Film Festival
Monday, April 25, 8:00 am – 7:15 pm
Guest Curator, Laura Blum

Film Schedule & Synopsis – Hawai’i Convention Center

2e: Twice Exceptional (54 min, USA) 2015
Monday, 8:00 am – 9:00 am

Twice Exceptional follows the personal journeys of a unique group of high school students in Los Angeles who have been identified as “twice exceptional” – gifted or highly gifted. An honest, up-close look at what it’s like to be – or to be the parent or teacher of — a gifted young person coming to terms with a learning difference.

Directed by: Thomas Ropelewsky  www.2emovie.com

Life, Animated (91 min, USA) 2016
Monday, 9:00 am – 10:45 am

At three years old, a chatty, energetic little boy named Owen Suskind ceased to speak, disappearing into autism with apparently no way out. Almost four years passed and the only stimuli that engaged Owen were Disney films.

Life, Animated tells the remarkable story of how Owen found in Disney animation a pathway to language and a framework for making sense of the world. With an arsenal of narratives at his disposal, Owen rises to meet the challenges of adulthood in this moving coming-of-age tale.

Directed by: Roger Ross Williams  www.lifeanimateddoc.com

Margarita, with a Straw (100 min, India, Hindi with English subtitles) 2014
Monday, 10:45 am – 12:30 pm

Laila is a young romantic, a secret rebel in a wheelchair. Undeterred by cerebral palsy, she embarks on a journey of sexual discovery. Her exhilarating adventures cause a rift both within herself and with those she is closest to. Ultimately, it is in the intensity of these bonds that she finds the strength to be truly herself.

Directed by: Shonali Bose and Nilesh Maniyar
Right Footed (82 min, USA/Ethiopia/Philippines) 2015
Monday, 12:45 pm – 2:45 pm, Q&A session director Nick Spark to follow

Born without arms as the result of a severe birth defect, Jessica Cox never allowed herself to believe that she couldn’t accomplish her dreams. Directed by Emmy Award winning filmmaker Nick Spark, Right Footed chronicles Jessica’s amazing story of overcoming adversity and follows her over a period of two years as she becomes a mentor for children with disabilities and their families, and a disability rights advocate working in the United States and abroad.

Directed by: Nick Spark

About the Producer/Director

Nick Spark is a Los Angeles based writer and documentarian with a long standing passion for unconventional characters, including the oft-overlooked female heroine. An accomplished writer of non-fiction and history, Nick was the associate editor for Wings and Airpower magazines. He has also appeared on PBS’ History Detectives, Japan’s NHK and National Public Radio concerning his research projects.

Becoming Bulletproof (82 min, USA) 2014
Monday, 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Becoming Bulletproof documents the making of an original Western film called Bulletproof. Bulletproof features actors with and without disabilities who meet every year at Zeno Mountain Farm (ZMF) to write, produce, and star in original short films. Becoming Bulletproof chronicles the genesis of a riveting film and a personally and socially transformative experience.

Directed by: Michael Barnett

Spike Lee presents Touched with Fire (110 min, USA) 2015
Monday, 5:15 pm – 7:00 pm

Touched with Fire stars Katie Homes and Luke Kirby as two poets with bipolar disorder whose art is fueled by their emotional extremes. When they meet in a treatment facility, they pursue their passion, which breaks outside the bounds of sanity, swinging them from fantastical highs to tormented lows until they ultimately must choose between sanity and love.

Directed by: Paul Dalio